(ख) सरकार द्वारा बीड़ी को लोकप्रिय बनाने और विदेशों को इसके निर्यात में तेजी लाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शीद) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) बीड़ियों का निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिए तम्बाकू बोर्ड द्वारा किए गए उपायों में ये शामिल हैं--अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मेलों तथा प्रदर्शनियों में बीड़ियों के विभिन्न ब्राण्ड प्रदर्शित करना, व्यापार प्रतिनिधिमण्डलों के दौरों के समय थ्रस्ट बाजारों का पता लगाना, बाजार सर्वेक्षण करना और विदेशी स्रोतों से प्राप्त निर्यात पूछताछों को बीड़ी निर्यातकों तक पहुंचाना। किन्तु बीड़ियों का निर्यात बढ़ाना कठिन हो रहा है क्योंकि पश्चिम एशिया के देशों में बीड़ियों का धूम्रपान अधिकांशतया भारतीय जाति के लोगों द्वारा किया जाता है।

Structural Changes in MMTC

1913. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in the Financial Express of 29th June, 1992 captioned "MMTC effecting major structural changes" in the functioning of the organisation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, indacting the steps taken for improvement of quality management so as to be able to survive in the competitive world market; and

(c) what are the proposed new product lines in which the Corporation will engage itself to increase the volume of business and steps likely to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MMTC is re-organising itself into specific profit centres consequent upon the decanalisation of a number of items under the new Export and Import Policy so as to improve the quality of management including identifying new markets/products for promotion of exports in the competitive world market and has registered itself with the Confederation of India Industries (CII) for quality improvement and training requirements etc.

(c) Besides traditional items, new thrust is being given to export of agricultural products, pesticides and insecticides, agro chemicals, industr chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals forest products biotechnology, marine products cottage & handloom industry, textiles including apparels, leather garments and other leather products, leasing and hire-purchases, warehousing, off-shore trading, merchanising trade and shipping. Thrust and penetration is being increased on existing lines like gem & jewellery, fertilizers, minerals and metals and engineering products and projects.

Creation of new Export Processing Zones

1914. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee at the industry level or Government level was set-up to study and recommend creation of new Export Processing Zones in the Country, if so, the details of the places/cases studied by the said Committee and the places where Export Processing Zones have already been set-up and proposed to be set-up in the future; and

(b) the status of the report of the committee and action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) A Committee was appointed to examine and propose an alternative model for development of Export Processing Zones (EPZ). The report